

Docket No.: 102164-29
Serial No.: 10/697,993
Art Unit: 1744
Examiner Beisner

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the tissue cassette is in fluid communication with the sample port and the reagent port such that the cell fragments are automatically deposited near the plane to be sectioned by a microtome.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the pressure applied to the reagent flow pathway is a negative pressure.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the pressure applied to the reagent flow pathway is a positive pressure.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the pressure applied to the cell flow pathway is a negative pressure.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the pressure applied to the cell flow pathway is a positive pressure.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein the reagent flow pathway includes a reagent delivery tube for delivering a reagent selected from the group consisting of alcohol xylene, hot paraffin, distilled water, saline, acid, hematoxylin, eosin, and immunohistochemistry reagents.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the reagent flow pathway includes a heated reagent delivery tube for delivering hot paraffin to the sample port.
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim + 26, wherein each reagent delivery tube further includes a pump for regulating the flow of reagent through the tube.

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10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, wherein each reagent delivery tube further includes a solenoid tube clamp for forming an airtight pathway.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, wherein the filter comprises polycarbonate.
13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, wherein the tissue cassette further includes a cylindrical port extending through the cassette configured for attachment to the filter.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the cylindrical port is configured for attachment to the sample port.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, further including a waste container for collecting at least one of the plurality of reagents.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the waste container includes a port for connecting to a pressure source.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the port further includes a pressure gauge.
18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, wherein the sample port is disposable.
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 26, wherein the apparatus is fully automated.
- 20-25. (Cancelled).

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26. (New) A flow-through cell block embedding apparatus, comprising:

a sample port;

a cell flow pathway defined by an inflow tube that is adapted to be coupled to the sample port, wherein the inflow tube is effective to deliver cell fragments from a cell sample to the sample port;

a tissue cassette in fluid communication with the sample port, the tissue cassette including a removable and replaceable filter such that upon the application of pressure, the cell fragments are drawn from the cell sample through the inflow tube to the sample port and deposited onto the filter;

a reagent port in fluid communication with the sample port; and

a plurality of reagent delivery tubes adapted to be coupled in fluid communication to the reagent port, wherein the plurality of reagent tubes are effective to deliver a plurality of reagents to the reagent port such that upon the application of pressure, the reagents are drawn through the reagent delivery tubes to the reagent port to the deposited cell fragments on the filter.